



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Master Josiah, student at Meadowfield Elementary School and Master Isaiah, student at Cardinal Newman High School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to defer consideration of **Item 32** (*Resolution No.: R-2015-066 – Authorizing the extension date for the repayment of the collateral loan issued to Wateree Community Actions, Inc. by the Office of Business Opportunities*) and the **August 4, 2015 Work Session Minutes**.

Councilor Plough said she is thankful to be back in Columbia. She thanked the citizens of this City and City Council members for their cards, prayers and thoughtfulness. She said if you feel or see something that is wrong about your body please have it checked; time is of the essence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [May 19, 2015 Work Session](#), [July 21, 2015 Council Meeting](#) and [August 4, 2015 Work Session Minutes](#) – *Approved the May 19, 2015 Work Session and July 21, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Consideration of the August 4, 2015 Work Session Minutes was deferred.*

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2015 Work Session and July 21, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Mary Lohman appeared before City Council on behalf of Girls on the Run Columbia to sincerely thank the Council for considering the organization for Community Promotions grant funding and for promoting health and well-being both physically and emotionally in our youth.

Dr. Tamara Burke, Chair of the Board of Directors for Girls on the Run said thank you.

Mayor Benjamin clarified that the \$75,000 reduction in the Historic Columbia Foundation's budget was for the archaeology project and not the management side. (*Please refer the Work Session Minutes - Item 2.*)

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **11** and **13**. Mr. Newman was not present for the vote.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS & AGREEMENTS

2. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of 1,500 Ninety-six \(96\) Gallon Garbage Collection Roll Carts](#), as requested by the Solid Waste Division. Award to Toter, Inc., in the amount of \$73,402.00. This vendor is located in Statesville, NC. *Funding Source: Solid Waste Roll Carts & Recycle Bins 1014401-627600 – **Note:** The carts will be used for standard collection of solid waste and non-recyclable items. The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$129,000.00. - Approved*
3. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Four Hundred Ten \(410\) Sig Sauer Weapon Magazines and Accessories](#), as requested by the Police Department. Award to Lawmen's Safety Supply, Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$79,481.52. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Police Administrative Services/Special Department Supplies, 1012402-624500 – **Note:** These items will be used to increase Public Safety Services. The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$79,481.52 - Approved*
4. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Radio Airtime for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Motorola, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000.00. This vendor is located in Blythewood, SC. *Funding Source: Fire Department-Maintenance \$ Service Contract; 1012303-638200 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$80,000.00. - Approved*
5. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Radio Airtime for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Police Department. Award to Motorola, Inc. in the amount of \$250,000.00. This vendor is located in Blythewood, SC. *Funding Source: Police Department-Other Lease/Rental; 1012402-636500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$250,000. - Approved*

6. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Engineering Services](#) for Planning, Directing, Monitoring and Supervising the Construction, Renovation, Operation, Maintenance and Administration of the Wastewater Facilities, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Atlantic South Consulting Services, LLC, as a Minority Business Enterprise in the amount of \$210,000.00. This firm is located in Charleston, SC. *Funding Source: \$210,000 (\$105,000) will be split equally from the Water Sewer Maintenance and Wastewater Operating Budgets, 5516205-SS7348-638305 & 5516208-SS7348-638305 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$210,000.00. - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #1; An Agreement to provide Initial and Long-term Renovation, Interior and Exterior Painting and Maintenance Services](#) for the Water Storage Facilities, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Utility Service Company in an amount not to exceed \$250,369.00. This firm is located in Perry, GA. *Funding Source: Water Plants Operating Budget, 5516210-638305 – **Note:** Sub-consulting services will be provided by Bullins Painting of Eden, NC, Swink Painting of Sunset Beach, NC and Nordic Tank & Tower of Menahga, MN at 30% of the contract value. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$250,369.00. - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve [Projects WM4290, WM4331, WM4334 and WM4339; Water Main Improvements along Kenny Court, Lincoln Street, Ellerbe Street, and Sewick Circle](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to G.H. Smith Construction, Inc., the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$309,295.00 with a project contingency of \$30,000.00 for a total amount of \$339,295.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source and Supplemental Source: Improvement Fund, 5529999-658650/WM429001-658650 – **Note:** This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Lake Murray Utility Company, Inc. of Chapin, SC is the Protégé and will implement 23.58% or \$80,000 of the contract value. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$327,000.00 and the additional funding of \$14,295 will come from Unforeseen Project WM4323. - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve Project [WM363701; Water Main Extension to the Town of Chapin](#) from Interstate 26 to Stonewall Court for the installation of Water Mains, Fire Hydrants and related Appurtenances, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to the LAD Corporation as the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$853,731.00 with a project contingency of \$50,000.00 for a total of amount of \$903,731.00. This firm is located in Swansea, SC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund; 5529999-WM363701-658650 – **Note:** This is a Subcontracting Outreach Program Project and they achieved 36.9% (\$334,200.00) participation. Ferguson Waterworks of Elgin, SC will provide water line materials in the amount of \$550,000. P&L Erosion Control, a Female Business Enterprise located in Blacksburg, SC will provide silt fence installation services in the amount of \$4,200. The original budgeted amount is \$2,000,000.00. - Approved*

10. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Phase II of the East Rocky Branch Improvement Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Hussey Gay Bell in an amount not to exceed \$1,920,000.00. This firm has headquarters located in Savannah, GA and a local office located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 55299999-SS733702-658650 – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Civil Engineering of Columbia, SC is the Protégé and will provide assistance with permitting, easement preparation, construction administration and observation at 20% of the contract value. Terracon Consultants, Inc. of Columbia, SC will provide geotechnical services as a sub consultant at 0.74% or \$14,300 of the contact value. The original budgeted amount is \$2,500,000.00. - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #3 for Project SS7236; Clean Water 2020 Program Management](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to CDM Smith, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$5,400,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 55299999-SS7236-658650 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$5,400,000.00. The following sub-consultants will be utilized at 25% (\$1,377,000) of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
LPA Group (Unit of the Michael Baker Corporation)	Columbia, SC	Construction Management Review, Standards Development & Inspection	2.0%	\$110,000.00
Civil Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. (WBE, Protégé Participant)	Columbia, SC	Project Management, Utility Coordination, Construction Inspection	3.5%	\$190,000.00
DESA Inc. (MBE, WBE, SBE, Protégé Participant)	Columbia, SC	Document Controls Support, Project Support, Public Outreach	5.3%	\$285,000.00
Comprehensive Business Consultants (MBE, FBE, SBE, Protégé Participant)	Columbia, SC	Program Controls Analyst, Program Controls Support & Administration	3.7%	\$200,000.00
Atlantic South Consulting Services, LLC (MBE, Protégé Participant)	Charleston, SC	Computerized Maintenance Management System Implementation Support & Information Management System Support	3.9%	\$212,000.00
Grice Consulting Group, LLC	Columbia, SC	Document Controls Support, Project Management Support	7.0%	\$380,000.00

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

12. [Ordinance No.: 2015-075](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hallmark Homes International, Inc. for the Lease of Unreserved parking spaces in the Lady Street Parking Garage and Washington Street Parking Garage – *First reading approval was given on August 4, 2015. – Approved on second reading as amended.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-075 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hallmark Homes International, Inc. for the Lease of Unreserved parking spaces in the Lady Street Parking Garage and Washington Street Parking Garage, as amended below. Mr. Newman was not present for the vote.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council this ____ day of _____, 2015 that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached License Agreement, or on a form approved by the City Attorney, between the City of Columbia and Hallmark Homes International, Inc. for the lease of unreserved spaces in the Lady Street Parking Garage and Washington Street Parking Garage, as outlined in the attached License Agreement and made pursuant to that Air Rights Development Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hallmark Homes International, Inc. dated June 8, 2015; provided, however, that in order to ensure that the existing and future tenants of Capitol Center, located on the northwest corner of Gervais and Assembly Streets, through the building management company, shall have access to a number of parking spaces to meet the needs of their employees and guests, it is agreed by the City that existing and future tenants of Capitol Center shall have an ongoing right of first refusal on any and all parking spaces (other than hourly parking spaces), exclusive of the parking spaces contemplated by the said License Agreement with Hallmark Homes International, Inc., including any spaces that hereafter become available due to the termination of existing monthly parking agreements in the Lady Street Garage - the details of which right of first refusal to be finalized by City staff with Capitol Center management.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

13. [Resolution No.: R-2015-080](#) – Amending Resolution No.: R-2015-011 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at First Thursdays on Main Street in the 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600 and 1700 blocks of Main Street from Gervais Street to Laurel Street and within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art to include the bus lane on the northern side of Hampton Street adjacent to Boyd Plaza - *Approved*

PRESENTATIONS

14. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting – Mr. Matt Evans, State Representative for the Government Finance Officers Association

Mr. Matt Evans, State Representative for the South Carolina Government Finance Officers Association and Clarendon County Treasurer said the Government Finance Officers Association presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Ms. Jan Alonso, Finance Director and Mr. Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant City Manager for Finance and Economic Services. He said these two individuals are to be commended for their professionalism and knowledge.

15. [US Communities Customer Appreciation Award](#) – Mr. Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant City Manager for Finance and Economic Services – *This presentation was deferred.*
16. [Introduction of the July 2015 Employee of the Month \(Ms. Natalie Simons, 9-1-1 Assistant Shift Supervisor for the Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center\)](#) – Ms. Kimberly Gathers, Director of Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications Center – *This presentation was deferred.*
17. [Introduction of the August 2015 Employee of the Month \(Ms. Vanessa J. Montgomery-Robinson, Parking Services Coordinator\)](#) – Mr. John Spade, Director of Parking Services

Mr. John Spade, Director of Parking Services introduced Ms. Vanessa J. Montgomery-Robinson, Parking Services Coordinator as the August 2015 Employee of the Month. He described Ms. Robinson as a 12-year employee who does all of the things that other employees can't quite figure out. He said she always has a smile on her face and she has a way that brightens their days.

Mayor Benjamin and Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager presented Ms. Vanessa J. Montgomery-Robinson with a plaque and tokens of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia August 2015 Employee of the Month.

18. City LIGHT Employee Recognition – Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager recognized Master Police Officer Josh Hardin as a City LIGHT for administering CPR to an infant after pulling the mother over for speeding. On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, MPO Hardin was reunited with the family and WLTX was there to witness the reunion. She presented Master Police Officer Josh Hardin with a token of appreciation, a certificate and a pin.

19. [Zero: 2016 Month Proclamation](#) – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed August 2015 as Zero: 2016 Month in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Anita Floyd, Senior Vice President for Community Impact and Strategic Implementation for United Way thanked the Mayor and members of City Council for supporting the United Way in taking the Zero: 2016 Challenge. She said United Way was selected as one of seventy-five communities to join President Obama's goals to end veteran homelessness by December 2015 and chronic homelessness by December 2016. She said our Midlands community has come together to adopt these lasting and effective solutions to addressing homelessness. She reported that since January, 214 people were placed in housing through the Zero: 2016 Challenge.

Mr. Craig Currey, Chief Executive Officer of Transitions said that a client at Transitions is trying to change his life and a business community partner hired him. He insisted that unless people step forward to hire ex-offenders, it is very difficult for them to turn their lives around.

20. [10th Annual Dr. James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Walk](#) – Ms. Yvonne Donald, Deputy Director of the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation

Ms. Yvonne Donald, Deputy Director of the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation announced that September is Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month and the 10th Annual Dr. James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pine Street. She said this walk is held in honor of those who live daily with Sickle Cell Disease and to give young people a fighting chance and financial security to live an independent life. She announced that Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott is the 2015 Walk Ambassador. She reported that the foundation has provided 15 scholarships. To learn more visit www.jamesrclarksicklecell.org.

21. [Update from EdVenture Children's Museum](#) – Ms. Karen Coltrane, President/CEO of the EdVenture Children's Museum

Ms. Karen Coltrane, President/CEO of the EdVenture Children's Museum said they are working to increase accessibility to the Museum. She said they allow families on Medicaid, WIC and SNAP to pay \$1 for admission and on the 12th day of each month children pay .12¢ for admission in celebration of EdVenture's 12th Anniversary. She announced that a new flight exhibit with a flight simulator is a \$1.5 million project and NASA has provided nearly \$900,000 in support of building the exhibit. She asked the City of Columbia to assist EdVenture and offer a challenge to Boeing, because the exhibit will help educate teachers on how to teach STEM in their classrooms. She said they will conduct additional fundraising. She announced that a new outdoor water exhibit would be a wonderful addition to the community. She said the existing main element will be refurbished and the other elements will be reworked to create an engaging outdoor element. She said this is a \$700,000 project, Richland County has committed \$100,000, the City has been asked for support and other corporate supporters and the community will be challenged to help EdVenture. She said they hope to have the exhibit built and installed by the end of 2016. She said we have an opportunity to recognize Dr. Charles Bolden, a graduate of C.A. Johnson High School and an Administrator at NASA.

Mayor Benjamin said as we talk about Hospitality Tax Bonds we will keep both of these projects in the mix.

At the request of Mayor Benjamin, Ms. Nikki Williams, Executive Vice President of External Relations for EdVenture Children's Museum provided passes to EdVenture to youth attending the meeting from the Booker Washington Heights Community, the Colony Apartments and the Bishop Apartments. The youth were in attendance to learn more about local government.

22. [Start Up in a Day Initiative and Pledge](#) – Ms. Tina Herbert, Executive Director of the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Tina Herbert, Executive Director of the Office of Business Opportunities said they are excited to be applying for funding for the Small Business Administration's Startup in a Day Initiative. She reported that it takes an entrepreneur six days to figure out how to get licenses and permits in any municipality. She said President Obama is encouraging cities to take the Startup in a Day Pledge so that entrepreneurs can apply for licensing and permitting in 24-hours. She said we are requesting \$50,000 to implement an online system.

Mayor Benjamin said the pledge is consistent with what Council has asked for over a period of time, including creating a Startup in a Day online tool within the next 12 months; developing a streamlined, business friendly, online permitting system; and encouraging every city that participates to share their best practices with other cities.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services explained that the concept is for business owners to know what is needed and make the application within 24-hours. We are looking to create one point of entry and a coordinated effort for getting a business operational.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Start Up in a Day Pledge.

23. Introduction of the the Man Up Campaign – Ms. Cristy Marshall, President/CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia

Ms. Cristy Marshall, President and Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia introduced a match: Big Brother Chris and Little Brother Isaiah. She said they offer a mentoring program that provides children who are facing adversity with a strong and enduring professionally supported one-to-one relationship that will change their lives for the better. She reported that students who have been in the program for one year are 57% less likely to take illegal drugs; 52% less likely to skip school; and 4 times more likely than their fathers to attend a four-year college; the impact of a mentor is phenomenal. She said they are challenged with providing mentors for the children in need and they have a great need for male volunteers. We have 50 boys on our waiting list and the City of Columbia wanted to help us by recruiting male volunteers through a partnership called Man Up Columbia. She encouraged everyone to volunteer for one year by spending four to six hours per month with a child. For more information visit www.bbbsgc.org.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

24. [Amendment and Reissuance of JEDA's \\$4,160,000 original principal amount Revenue Bonds \(Palmetto Health Foundation Project\), Series 2006 \(the "Original Bonds"\)](#). The proceeds of the Original Bonds were made available to Palmetto Health Foundation, a South Carolina nonprofit corporation (the "Corporation"), to finance the acquisition, by construction and purchase, of three buildings and related machinery and equipment, and additions thereto for use as office facilities by the Corporation, Palmetto Health Alliance and tenants of the Corporation (the "Original Project") located on land owned by the Corporation in the City of Columbia, South Carolina. The Original Project is located at or adjacent to 1600 Marion Street, 1601 Bull Street and 1607 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The maximum aggregate face amount of the Bonds will not exceed \$2,700,000. – ***Note:*** *This matter is scheduled for a public hearing only. No action is required. The public hearing was conducted on August 18, 2015 and no one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.*

Council opened the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m.

Mr. Michael Seezen, Esq., McNair Law Firm said this bond was issued in 2006 and the outstanding principal amount is \$2.7 million. A new bond isn't being issued; they are amending the terms to change the interest rate and to extend the maturity of the existing bond. The IRS requires that a public hearing be held by a local governing body.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Council closed the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

25. [Ordinance No.: 2015-054](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V. Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-146 Fire hydrant, fire protection and sprinkler system charges (g) – *Approved on first reading by a vote of six (6) to one (1).*

Councilor Runyan said he spoke with some members of Council County on this issue and he knows that it was a heated debate. He was told that alternate proposals were put forth for the County to be able to pay for what they needed to pay for without raising fees and taxes. He is not able to support this, because it is taxation without representation; we are raising fees on people who live outside the City by a vote of City Council. He said we are looking at more and more fees, fines and taxes being pushed on our citizens when there are alternatives out there. He believes five alternatives were presented by the Chairman of the Fire Committee at the County.

Councilor Davis asked if this is a request to support their intention to increase the rate.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager recalled that this Council approved funding for the Fire Recruitment and Retention Plan. County Council also wanted to support that plan and after much discussion, this was the alternative they decided upon as far as financing the additional amount needed to fund the plan through the County.

Mayor Benjamin said he hasn't heard from Torrey Rush, Chair of the Richland County Council. He said we will support the County's request.

Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Ms. Vi Hendley, 104 Alabama Street said she lives in the unincorporated portion of the City of Columbia. She said fire fees are necessary to support the department's effort to pay firefighters in a comparable way to other fire departments in this state. She said we are currently below many metropolitan areas, even cities as small as Florence. She said the nature of fire has changed significantly as a result of fires burning hotter and faster; increased population; and increased structures. She insisted that we should approve this, because the fees haven't been raised in 30-years. She said she was there for the entire debate and County Council did do so.

Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Benjamin said this is not taxation by representation and a vote in support of this would be in favor of good fire protection and paying firefighters like the professionals they are.

Councilor Devine thanked Ms. Hendley for always supporting the men and women who do a yeoman's job.

Councilor Plough asked the City Manager to read the letter from Tony McDonald into the record.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager read the letter from Mr. Tony McDonald, Richland County Administrator dated July 1, 2015. (*The letter is attached to Ordinance No.: 2015-054.*)

Councilor Plough admitted that she initially questioned why we would be entertaining it, but having read the letter, she now better understands that it is County Council's decision in terms of how they want to fund the fire system in the County; we operate it on their behalf, but it is our water system; therefore, we would have to authorize the hydrant fees and the adjustments at their request.

Councilor Davis said the City isn't raising the rates arbitrarily on folks that live in the unincorporated areas and this doesn't apply to city residents. He understands that as growth continues in the unincorporated areas that puts a demand on water, sewer and fire protection and those services have to be paid for. He said this is the only source of revenue available.

Councilor Runyan clarified that there are alternatives to pay for this; this isn't about whether firefighters should be paid in the County; this can be done without a 100% increase on citizens' fire fee in the County. In the past 24 months, we've increased the millage for the zoo and library; the County is increasing millage; the school board was about to levy a massive tax; the City has raised water and sewer rates by 10% with a projected 48% increase over the next five years; and thankfully county residents don't pay the 5% tax on electricity that we just added. He said if we keep it up people won't be able to live in this county and this city.

Mayor Benjamin noted that this City Council voted to reduce the millage on citizens this year. He challenged anyone to find another government in this state that hasn't raised taxes this year. He encouraged everyone to talk about compassion and conservatism, as well.

Ms. Vi Hendley, 104 Alabama Street/Richland County resident said an additional \$1 per month is \$12 per year and when a fire service is not adequately staffed or equipped houses burn down and wrecks become fatal.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-054 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V. Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-146 Fire hydrant, fire protection and sprinkler system charges (g). Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Ms. Plough, Mr. Newman, Mr. Baddourah and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Runyan voted nay.

26. [Ordinance No.: 2015-068](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 24, Vehicles for Hire to add Article VI, Moped Rentals – *Approved on first reading.*

Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-068 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 24, Vehicles for Hire to add Article VI, Moped Rentals.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

27. [Ordinance No.: 2015-070](#) – Amending Ordinance No: 2014-032 granting an encroachment for stamped asphalt pavement, crosswalks, concrete curb, guttering, columns, gates, islands, landscaping, irrigation system and bike lanes in 1300 and 1400 blocks of Greene Street and 600 and 700 blocks of Bull Street and Ordinance 2012-059 granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for use of the right of way area of the 1500 block of Greene Street and 800 block of Pickens Street adjacent to USC Petigru College, Richland County TMS # 11304-05-01, for installation and maintenance of asphalt pavement, concrete curb, guttering, walkway, brick wall, wrought iron fencing, parking spaces, bike lane, wheel stops, handicap ramp, landscaping and irrigation system to include a bus shelter in the 700 block of Bull Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-070 – Amending Ordinance No: 2014-032 granting an encroachment for stamped asphalt pavement, crosswalks, concrete curb, guttering, columns, gates, islands, landscaping, irrigation system and bike lanes in 1300 and 1400 blocks of Greene Street and 600 and 700 blocks of Bull Street and Ordinance 2012-059 granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for use of the right of way area of the 1500 block of Greene Street and 800 block of Pickens Street adjacent to USC Petigru College, Richland County TMS # 11304-05-01, for installation and maintenance of asphalt pavement, concrete curb, guttering, walkway, brick wall, wrought iron fencing, parking spaces, bike lane, wheel stops, handicap ramp, landscaping and irrigation system to include a bus shelter in the 700 block of Bull Street.

28. [Ordinance No.: 2015-071](#) – Granting an encroachment to The Columbia Film Society for installation and maintenance of an egress door and placement and maintenance of two commercial grade pottery or metal planters within the sidewalk right of way area adjacent to The Nickelodeon Theater, 1607 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-10-15 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-071 – Granting an encroachment to The Columbia Film Society for installation and maintenance of an egress door and placement and maintenance of two commercial grade pottery or metal planters within the sidewalk right of way area adjacent to The Nickelodeon Theater, 1607 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-10-15.

29. [Ordinance No.: 2015-072](#) – Granting an encroachment to Jin Young Paik and Jung Hei L. Paik for installation and maintenance of metal wall panels within the sidewalk right of way area adjacent to 1538 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-09-23 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-072 – Granting an encroachment to Jin Young Paik and Jung Hei L. Paik for installation and maintenance of metal wall panels within the sidewalk right of way area adjacent to 1538 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-09-23.

30. [Ordinance No.: 2015-074](#) – Granting a Franchise to Richard Dittmar d/b/a Capital City Dog for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northeast corner of Main Street and Lady Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-074 – Granting a Franchise to Richard Dittmar d/b/a Capital City Dog for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northeast corner of Main Street and Lady Street.

31. [Ordinance No.: 2015-076](#) – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Assembly Station Columbia, LLC): Richland County TMS # 11301-03-01, 11301-03-02, 11301-03-03, 11301-03-04, 11301-03-05, 11301-03-06, 11301-03-07, 11301-03-08, 11301-03-09, 11301-03-11, 11301-03-12, 11301-03-13, 11301-03-15, 11301-03-16, 11301-03-17, 11301-03-18, 11301-03-19, 11301-03-20, and 11301-21-01 – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the value of this property on the tax rolls. She asked how staff determined that it was above \$40 million.

Mr. Ryan Coleman, Director of Economic Development said the County Assessor's Office provided the 2014 tax number, which is \$1,041,000. He agreed to get the valuation from them.

Councilor Plaugh said we would lose \$98,000 in revenue a year. She made a substitute motion to defer this until we get clarification that it does meet the \$40 million.

Mayor Benjamin said the policy calls for a minimum investment and not the valuation.

A motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-076 – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Assembly Station Columbia, LLC): Richland County TMS # 11301-03-01, 11301-03-02, 11301-03-03, 11301-03-04, 11301-03-05, 11301-03-06, 11301-03-07, 11301-03-08, 11301-03-09, 11301-03-11, 11301-03-12, 11301-03-13, 11301-03-15, 11301-03-16, 11301-03-17, 11301-03-18, 11301-03-19, 11301-03-20, and 11301-21-01, was withdrawn.

RESOLUTIONS

32. [Resolution No.: R-2015-066](#) – Authorizing the extension date for the repayment of the collateral loan issued to Wateree Community Actions, Inc. by the Office of Business Opportunities – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*
33. [Resolution No.: R-2015-074](#) – Designated Moped Rental Franchise Locations - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-074 – Designated Moped Rental Franchise Locations.

34. [Resolution No.: R-2015-077](#) – A Resolution relating to the Declaration of Intent by the City of Columbia, South Carolina, to use proceeds of Tax-Exempt Bonds or other Obligations issued by or on behalf of the City to Reimburse certain expenditures prior to the issuance of such Bonds or other obligations – *Approved by a vote of five (5) to two (2).*

Councilor Plough said we all understand that the City has a financial obligation to Bull Street. She expressed concerns about the reference to Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds, which is a very expensive method of satisfying this obligation. She said when compared to General Obligation Bonds, it would cost us up to \$26 million. She believes there are ways of coddling together resources that the City have and do this in a less costly and more efficient manner. She can't support this Resolution, because it authorizes us to initiate and incur costs associated with doing Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds.

Mayor Benjamin said there are a number of different ways to finance infrastructure going forward; and our staff will bring us the best way to do so. He said he understands Ms. Plough's position.

Councilor Davis asked if the \$26 million is accurate. He asked that Council consider other alternatives as we move forward.

Mr. Michael Seezen, Esq., McNair Law Firm said the genesis of the resolution is to satisfy the Internal Revenue Service requirement for you to establish a date and look back to that date to reimburse the City for expenditures from proceeds of tax exempt bonds.

Councilor Runyan clarified that the vote to issue debt still comes back to Council.

Mr. Michael Seezen, Esq., McNair Law Firm said this resolution doesn't authorize any form of indebtedness and it doesn't identify the source of money that will be used to pay the expenditures; it provides a great deal of flexibility. He stated that whatever choice Council makes to ultimately fund the improvements and infrastructure at Bull Street, through one or more mechanisms, would have to be authorized at a later time.

Councilor Runyan concurred with Ms. Plough. He hopes that we can be very prudent with coddling together the sources we need to finance this project. He said as we go forward, it is very important that we use options other than IPRBs.

Councilor Devine said this Resolution allows us to use proceeds from whatever mechanism to reimburse ourselves for expenses that we will have to get ready for an issuance. She said she supports this resolution. We talked about options, but staff was looking at an IPRB as an option due to our limitations. She said she is meeting with Ms. Plough tomorrow to look at other alternatives. She said we have obligations to Bull Street and we have to think about how we are going to meet those obligations.

Councilor Baddourah said the school district utilized that method to borrow money and the State Legislature made it impossible for them to utilize that method anymore, because it is a risky way to borrow money and it costs more than a GO Bond and any other funding. He said there are other methods for funding Bull Street and an Installment Purchase Revenue Bond is not an option for him.

Mayor Benjamin noted as a retired bond attorney that there's nothing risky about Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted five (5) to two (2) to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-077 – A Resolution relating to the Declaration of Intent by the City of Columbia, South Carolina, to use proceeds of Tax-Exempt Bonds or other Obligations issued by or on behalf of the City to Reimburse certain expenditures prior to the issuance of such Bonds or other obligations. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Newman, Mr. Runyan and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Ms. Plough and Mr. Baddourah.

35. [Resolution No.: R-2015-079](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Third Renewal and Amendment of Sublease Agreement with Celia Saxon Shopping Center, LLC for lease of approximately 3,297 square feet for the City Health Center - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-079 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Third Renewal and Amendment of Sublease Agreement with Celia Saxon Shopping Center, LLC for lease of approximately 3,297 square feet for the City Health Center.

36. [Resolution No.: R-2015-081](#) – Establishing a No Kill Columbia Animal Community-
Approved

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-081 – Establishing a No Kill Columbia Animal Community.

STAFF REPORT

37. [Clean Water 2020 Program Update](#) – Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of the Utilities and Engineering Department - *This item was moved to the Work Session - Agenda Item 4.*

OTHER MATTERS

38. Council is asked to approve the [Renewal of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity](#), as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Joaquin Martinez de Andino doing business as Cycle Cab & Rickshaw located at 3320 Dexter Street, Charlotte, NC 28209. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the Renewal of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Joaquin Martinez de Andino doing business as Cycle Cab & Rickshaw located at 3320 Dexter Street, Charlotte, NC 28209.

APPOINTMENTS

39. [Citizens Advisory Council for the Columbia Police Department](#)- *Approved*

Councilor Plough asked Council to give serious consideration to Harold Reaves. She said his tenure historically with the Police Department and as president of the neighborhood association could bring balance to the startup of this important committee.

Mayor Benjamin said he has a great deal of respect for Harold as a former officer and interim chief as well. He said it is important to have someone with experience, but it is also important to not have anyone with CPD ties.

Councilor Devine concurred, while expressing her admiration for Harold. While she doesn't believe anything would happen intentionally, she said part of the issues with the Police Department stemmed from past practices, concerns, etc. and she thinks it is important to allow the Chief to have a committee that is free from any relationships, ties and influence from past administrations.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the following ten individuals to the Citizens Advisory Council for the Columbia Police Department for a one year term. Council will consider staggering appointments or reappointments after nine months.

Demetria Capone	Rev. W. Andrew Waldo
Rev. William Dieckmann	Jason Reynolds
Seth Stoughton	Robert Wynn, Jr.
Bishop Colie L. Lorick, Jr.	Catherine Fant
Rev. Michael Baker	Edward Grimsley

40. [Composition of the Animal Services Blue Ribbon Committee](#) - *Approved*

Councilor Baddourah suggested that it would be an advantage to have a member of City Council and Richland County Council as part of the committee.

Councilor Davis disagreed. He said the deliberations should be balanced by the initiatives of the organizations.

Mayor Benjamin said he would want to keep the politics out of it.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to appoint the following individuals to the Animal Services Blue Ribbon Committee with Ms. Anne Sinclair serving as Chair. County and Municipal Employees will serve as Ad Hoc Members of the Committee. If any appointees decline to serve, the composition of the committee will decrease.

Anne Sinclair, Chair
Carlynn Cary
Robin Ebert
Frannie Heizer
Jon Sears
Dr. Nori Warren
Dr. Tracy Wales
Jan Shaw
Wayne Brennessel
Jim Mayfield

Denise Wilkinson
Holly Wagner
Donna Casamento
Nicole Howland
Pat Peters
Mary Dennis Cauthen
Phil Dematteis
Heather Clarkson
Ann Jones
Deloris Mungo

Mayor Benjamin asked that staff look at what we need to do for the No-Kill Community Initiative to bring our community-wide numbers down and participation up. He asked staff to provide clear direction on what the public and private agencies can be doing for a specific micro-shelter approach.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE E REPORTS / REFERRALS

No reports or referrals were made at this time.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk of Council